PRINCE RVPERT HIS DECLARATION

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IT will ſeeme ſtrange (no doubt) to ſee mee in Print, my knowne diſpoſition being ſo contrary to this ſcribling Age; and ſure I had not put my ſelfe upon a Declaration, if in common prudence I could have done otherwiſe.

I need not tell the world (for it is too well knowne) what malicious lying Pamphlets are Printed againſt mee almoſt every morning, whereby thoſe buſie men ſtrive to render mee as odious as they would have Mee, againſt whom doubtleſſe I had ſooner declared, but that I well knew this mutenous lying ſpirit would be eaſily convinced, but neiver ſilenced, which, as it ceaſeth at no time, ſo it ſpares no perſon. And this was too manifeſt to me, by thoſe bold, odious and impoſſible untruths forged againſt His ſacred Majeſtie, their own King and Soveraigne (and my Gracious and Royal Uncle) who is onely guilty of this, that he is too good to be their King; and to deale clearly, this was it furniſhed me with ſufficient patience, thinking it but reaſonable, that I ſhould be ſlandered as well as his Majeſtie.

But ſince it hath pleaſed my Lord *Wharton* to tell the whole City of London openly at Guildrhall, and ſince to tell it all the world in print, that one great cauſe of their preſervation at *Edge-hill*, was the barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity of

Prince *Rupert* and his Troopers, that we ſpared neither man, woman, nor child, and the thing which we aime at is pillage and plundering, and the way which we would come by it is murthering and deſtroying; ſince ſuch a charge as this comes from ſuch a mouth, I hold my ſelfe bound in houour to ſpeak and tell that Lord, that as much of his ſpeech as concernes me, is no truer then the reſt of it, which for the moſt part is as falſe as any thing that hath been ſpoken or printed in London theſe two yeares: and had I knowne his Lordſhips intention, I would have asked his reaſon either before or now at Keinton, if his Lordſhip had but ſtayed ſo long as to be asked the queſtion.

But me thinke I heare the credulous people ſay, What? was not the Kings Standard reſcued from them by force? were there ſo many as 20. of our men killed by all the Kings Canons? was not our right wing long under the power of their Canons, ſo as ſome 17. ſhot of Canon ſhot againſt them, and yet not a man of ours ſo much as hurt? Nay, were there not 3000. ſlaine of the Kings Army, and but 300. of ours? If theſe abominable untruths (with many more like them in his Lordſhips ſpeech) be all true, then ſhall he freely charge me with barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity; but if theſe be moſt groſſe falſities (as many thouſand worthy Gentlemen will take their oathes they are) then I muſt profeſſe I am ſorry that any Baron of the Engliſh Nation ſhould utter ſuch fowle untruths, to deceive the poore abuſed Citizens of *London* with falſe reports, and ſo ſlander us. 'Twas ever my opinion, that no valient man would ſpeake a knowne untruth; nor can I blame his Lordſhip or any others faint-heartedneſſe in ſo bad a cauſe as theirs is, which doubtleſſe is the reaſon why ſuch Noblemen and Gentry in His Majeſties Army, who hitherto had ſpent all their dayes in peace, could then fight ſo valiantly *ex tempore*, not valuing their Lives, and forgetting their deareſt relations; ſo as our enemies in their hackney railing Pamphlets were forced to ſay, *The Cavaliers* (to give the Divell his due) *fought very valiantly*: And indeed, had they not ſhewed

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rather too much valour, our enemies had leſſe bottome whereon to ſound any untruths, whereof I take this relation to be one of their maſter-pieces of forgeries, for that they ſlew as many of ours, as we did of theirs, is as true, as that they beat us at *Sherbourne Caſtle* and at *Worceſter*.

Now for barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity to women and children, wherewith his Lordſhip and thoſe impudent unpuniſhed papers cryed daily in the ſtreets do continually ſlander us, I muſt here profeſſe, that I take that man to be no Souldier or Gentleman, that will ſtrike (much leſſe kill) a woman or child, if it be in his power to do the contrary: And I openly dare the moſt valiant and quick-ſighted of that lying Faction, to name the time, the perſon, or the houſe, where any child or woman loſt ſo much as a hair from their head by me, or any of our ſouldiers. In a battell, where two Armies fight, many one hath unfortunately killed his deareſt friend, very often thoſe whom willingly he would otherwiſe have ſpared; and whether any woman or child were killed in this fight, is more then I can juſtly ſay: I am ſorry if there were. I ſpeak not how wilfully barbarous their ſouldiers were to the Counteſſe *Rivers*, to the Lady *Lucas* in Eſſex, and likewiſe to the like perſons of quality in Kent, and other places: Whom have wee ever puniſhed for ſpeaking againſt us, as they moſt Jewiſhly whipped to death a Citizen of London, for ſaying no more then what was included in His Majeſties Proclamation. But ſince they name plundering, whoſe monies? nay, whoſe Armes have we taken away, unleſſe theirs, who actually had, or at leaſt declared they would uſe them againſt His Majeſties Army? And for that little cloth borrowed for our ſouldiers (wherewith their Pamphlets make ſuch a noiſe) His Majeſty by Gods help will ſee it better paid for, then any thing they have taken upon publick *Faith*. What houſe have we ranſacked, as they did the Earle of *Northamptons*? mangling and cutting in pieces rich chairs, beds, ſtooles and hangings; drinking as much and as long as they were able, then letting the reſt run out upon the floore, when as the very

very Earle of *Essex* his house at *Chartley* suffered not the least damage by us. What Churches have we defaced, as they did at *Canterbury*, *Oxford*, *Worcester*, and many other places? whose pockets have we pickt ever to the value of three pence, under pretence of searching for letters, as they lately did in *Glocestershire*, and particularly this last week at *Windsor* and *Uxbridge*? Is it not their usuall practice first to plunder a mans house of all plate and monies, and then imprison him as a Delinquent, for no other fault, but because he stood loyall to his Prince; as if it were too little to take a mans estate, unlesse also they rob him of his innocence? Have they not now stuffed all the prisons in London with Earls, Lords, Bishops, Judges and Knights, Masters of Colledges, Lawyers and Gentlemen of all conditions and Counties? for what (God knowes) they themselves know not: insomuch as now they are enforced to find out new prisons for the Knights, Aldermen, and substantiall Citizens of London, who are now thrust in thither only because they are suspected to love their King? Have they not by imprisonment or threats, muzzeled the mouths of the most grave and learnedst Preachers of London? witnesse Doctor *Featly*, Doctor *Hayward*, Doctor *Holdsworth*, Master *Shute*, Master *Squire*, Master *Griffith*, and many others (for so I am informed these men are) because they preach that which their conscience tells them is the knowne truth. And who are countenanced but ignorant and seditious teachers, who (like the Masse Priests of old) call mightily on the people for their plate and money for their patrons and themselves? who, besides their daily Pulpits treasons, vent such other Divinity, as if *Luther* were living, he would blush to call them Protestants: And if this be not cruelty, injustice, tyranny, let God and Posterity judge: Now for any looseneſse or incivility in our souldiers more then what is accident and common to great Armies, I wish they would not mention it, least some impartiall readers, who know their courses, understand it to be meant by some of their great Reformers, who are that way as notoriously guilty as

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any: And for my selfe, I appeale to the consciences of those Lords and Gentlmen, who are my daily witnesses, and to those people wheresoever our Army hath beene, what they know, or have observed in my carriage, which might not become one of my quality, and the son of a King. And whereas they slandet us for *Popish Cavaliers*, I wish there were no more Papists in their Army then we have in ours; but to me tis no wonder with what face they can slander us for men disaffected to the Protestant Religion, when as their grand Reformers refuse to come to Church. For His sacred Majesty, I have beene a frequent witnesse here in England (and all the world knowes he never shewed himselfe otherwise) and therefore hold it to be my part and duty to tell them, that His Majesty is the most faithfull and best defender of the Protestant Religion of any Christian Prince in *Europe*, and is so accounted by all the Princes in Christendome. And what a gracious supporter hath he been in particular to the Queen of *Bohemia* (my vertuous Royall mother) and to the Prince Electour, my Royall brother, no man can be ignorant of: if therefore in common gratitude I do my utmost in defence of His Majesty, and that cause whereof hee hath hitherto been so great and happy a patron; no ingenuous man but must think it most reasonable: And for my self, the world knows how deeply I have smarted, and what perils I have undergone for the Protestant cause, what stately large promises were offered mee would I consent; and what a wretched close imprisonment was threatned, if I refused to change my Religion, when I was captive to the Emperour of *Germany*, enough to satisfie any man of moderation: But if to be not sufficient, I would to God all English men were at union among themselves. then with what alacrity would I venture my life to serve this Kingdome against those cruell Popish Rebells in Ireland: for though I will never fight in any unrighteous quarrell, yet to defend the King, Religion and Laws of a Kingdom against subjects, who are up in arms against their Lord and Soveraign, and such (all good wise men know this

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and that of Ireland to be) though the pretence look ſeverall waies; ſuch a cauſe my conſcience tells me is full of piety and juſtice, and if it pleaſe God to end my dayes in it, I ſhall think my laſt breath ſpent with as much honour and religion, as if I were taken off my knees at my prayers. I think there is none that take me for a Coward; for ſure I fear not the face of any man alive, yet I ſhall repute it the greateſt victory in the world to ſee His Majeſty enter London in peace without ſhedding one drop of bloud: where, I dare ſay (God and His Majeſty are witneſſes I lye not) no Citizen ſhould be plundered of one penny or farthing, whereby that ancient and famous City would manifeſtly perceive how deſperately it hath been abuſed by moſt ſtrange, falſe and bottomleſſe untruths, for which ſome body (without repentance) muſt be aſhamed at the day of Judgement, if they eſcape a condigne legall puniſhment in this world: I therefore I conclude with this open profeſſion (and I am confident our whole Army will ſay *Amen* unto it) he that hath any deſigne againſt the Proteſtant Religion, the Lawes of England, or hopes to enrich himſelfe by pillaging the City of London, let him be accurſt: And ſo, whether peace or warre, the Lord proſper the worke of their hands who ſtand for GOD and King CHARLES.

RVPERT.